Tracking Program Success with Progress Reports

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Introduction

Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) had a need to inform program providers of their program's status on a regular basis. A program progress report was designed to present the providers with a summary of the program's participants and outcomes. The reports are produced according to the fiscal year of the program's contract (i.e., state or county). Tarrant County JPD began providing the progress reports in FY2016. The progress reports provide a snapshot of the programs that can be viewed at any time in question.

Project Description

Background
- Before the progress reports were created, the department identified the criminogenic needs and stabilizing factors, if appropriate, that the programs were designed to address.
- The report is given to the providers at the end of each quarter, with new data added to the report each quarter.
- Quarter 1 includes participants from the previous FY who were still engaged in the program.
- Demographic and program data were downloaded from the Juvenile Case Management System and PACT data was pulled from Noble.

Participant Data
- Gender, Race, and Average Age at Program Begin.
- Modal Offense Category: the most frequent program referral offense.
- Engagement: the length of time from the program referral date to the program begin date. The average time to engagement was calculated along with the range for each quarter and the FY.
- Engagement times were calculated only for youth who began in the current FY.

Program Outputs
- Completion Status: Completed; Unsuccessful (absent without permission or failure to comply); or Other (supervision ended, transferred out of jurisdiction, deceased, or unsuitable/not eligible).
- For discharged participants, the average length of the program in days and the range were

Tarrant County Juvenile Probation Department
FY 2016 Quarterly Program Progress Report
Program: XYZ

Variable	Attribute	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	FY 2016 Total
# of Participants		34	12	18	13	77
Gender	Male	22 (64.7%)	9 (75.0%)	16 (88.9%)	7 (53.8%)	54 (70.1%)
	Female	12 (35.3%)	3 (25.0%)	2 (11.1%)	6 (46.2%)	23 (29.9%)
Race	Black	9 (26.5%)	2 (16.7%)	8 (44.4%)	2 (15.4%)	21 (27.3%)
	Hispanic	12 (35.3%)	5 (41.7%)	5 (27.8%)	5 (38.5%)	27 (35.1%)
	White	12 (35.3%)	5 (41.7%)	5 (27.8%)	6 (46.2%)	28 (36.4%)
	Other	1 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.3%)
Average Age at Program Begin		15.5	15.8	15.0	14.6	15.3
Risk Level	Low	6 (18.2%)	2 (16.7%)	2 (11.1%)	3 (23.1%)	13 (17.1%)
	Moderate	15 (45.5%)	9 (75.0%)	5 (27.8%)	4 (30.8%)	33 (43.4%)
	High	12 (36.4%)	1 (8.3%)	11 (61.1%)	6 (46.2%)	30 (39.5%)
	No PACT	1	0	0	0	1
Need Level	Low	5 (15.2%)	2 (16.7%)	2 (11.1%)	3 (23.1%)	12 (15.8%)
	Moderate	19 (57.6%)	10 (83.3%)	10 (55.6%)	8 (61.5%)	47 (61.8%)
	High	9 (27.3%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (33.3%)	2 (15.4%)	17 (22.4%)
	No PACT	1	0	0	0	1
Modal Offense Category of Participants		Misd Assault (n=10)	Felony Property (n=7)	Felony Violent (n=4)	Misd Assault (n=5)	Misd Assault (n=20)
Average Time to Engagement (Range)		11 days (1-29)	8 days (4-16)	10 days (6-20)	7 days (2-15)	9 days (1-29)
Median Days to Engagement		10.5 days	8 days	9 days	7 days	9 days
# of Discharges		14	15	18	14	61
Average Length of Program (Range)		109 days (24-234)	126 days (33-236)	104 days (12-201)	106 days (7-179)	111 days (7-236)
Completion Status	Completed	7 (50.0%)	5 (33.3%)	9 (50.0%)	9 (64.3%)	30 (44.7%)
	Unsuccessful	5 (35.7%)	8 (53.3%)	3 (16.7%)	2 (14.3%)	18 (34.0%)
	Other	2 (14.3%)	2 (13.3%)	6 (33.3%)	3 (21.4%)	13 (21.3%)
Primary Criminogenic Needs of Participants	Antisocial Behavior	0 (0.0%)	1 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.3%)
	Criminal Thinking	3 (8.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.6%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (5.2%)
	Family	1 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (15.4%)	3 (3.9%)
	Different Primary Need	22 (64.7%)	11 (91.7%)	13 (72.2%)	11 (84.6%)	57 (74.0%)
	No FULL PACT	8 (23.5%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (22.2%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (15.6%)
Stabilizing Factor	Mental Health	8	9	1	2	20

Performance Measure	Supporting Documentation			Goal Status
70% of youth enrolled will complete XYZ.	Of the youth discharging in FY16, 44.7% completed the program.			Not Met
Median number of days to engagement will not exceed 10 days.	Of the youth beginning the program in FY16, the median number of days to engagement was 8 days.			Goal Met
85% of youth completing the program will not be placed outside the home by the juvenile court within 6 months of completion.	Of the youth completing the program in FY16, 100.0% were not placed outside the home within 6 months of program completion.			Goal Met
75% of youth enrolled will not have a subsequent referral while enrolled in the program.	Of the youth participating in FY16, 79.2% did not have a subsequent referral while enrolled in the program.			Goal Met
One year re-arrest rate shall not exceed 40%.	Of the youth beginning the program in FY15, 49.3% were rearrested within 12 months of beginning the program.			Not Met
Two year re-arrest rate will improve by 15% over the FY2014 cohort once established.	Of the youth beginning the program in FY14, 53.6% were rearrested within 24 months of beginning the program.			N/A

Project Description Cont.

Risk and Needs Assessment
- The PACT (Positive Assessment Change Tool) is the risk assessment tool used by Tarrant County JPD.
- The PACT closest to the program referral date was selected.
- Based on how certain questions were answered within the PACT, a risk and need level was calculated using SPSS.
- Risk and Need Levels: Low, Moderate, or High.
- Primary criminogenic needs and stabilizing factors can only be reported for youth who have been given the full version of the PACT.

Performance Measures
- The final report includes yearly performance measures and the status of the goals.
- For contracted programs, SMART goals were selected to ensure program providers have clearly defined goals and are able to verify that their programs are having an impact.

Implications

- The progress reports are shared with contract and internal program staff to ensure the clients' needs are met.
- The reports quickly identify if the clients have been placed in the appropriate programs according to their criminogenic needs and the criminogenic needs the programs address.
- The reports are easy to read summaries that facilitate transparency and accountability of the providers to their goals.

Contact Information

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